



Undergraduate Student Government, Brooklyn College, Spring Semester

JOINT RESOLUTION

To: USG Executive Cabinet, USG Student Senate

From: Senator Amina Tariq, Club Director Samia Ahmed, Vice President Iqura Naheed

Date: Thursday, November 4th , 2021

Title: USG Joint Proposition 018b: Accommodating Muslim Students for Eid

1. WHEREAS, CUNY Central regularly honors the holy month of Ramadan every year through official communications, and publicly stated in May and July 2021 “As the holy month of Ramadan comes to an end, we send our warmest greetings to all those celebrating Eid al-Fitr”¹;
2. WHEREAS, CUNY recognizes the importance of this holiday to publicly celebrate it on social media and official communications;
3. WHEREAS, the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding estimated in 2018 that approximately 22.3% of Muslims² in the United States live in New York City;
4. WHEREAS, the New York State Health Foundation states that Muslims are the fastest-growing religious community³ in New York City;
5. WHEREAS, the City University of New York is one of the largest public urban universities in the nation and serves over 500,000 students⁴ across 25 campuses across NYC including 275,000 degree-seeking students;
6. WHEREAS, in 2009 Councilmember Tony Avella introduced Res. 21425 to the New York City Council Committee on Higher Education calling upon CUNY to incorporate the Muslim holidays of Eid Al-Fitr and Eid Al-Adha;⁵
7. WHEREAS, as of May 2021, CUNY has still not taken action to respect the significant and growing Muslim student population in the academic calendar;
8. WHEREAS, on March 11th, 2021, USS passed the Resolution “Accommodating Muslim Students for Eid-Al-Fitr, Thursday May 13th.”
9. WHEREAS, a petition was created by CUNY students in Spring 2021 supporting cancelling classes for Eid that accumulated over 15,000 signatures.⁶
10. WHEREAS, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced in March 2015 that all public schools in NYC, the largest public school system in the United States, will close in observance of Eid-al-Adha and Eid-al-Fitr⁷;
11. WHEREAS, Mayor Bill de Blasio asserted that the change in policy was a change that respects the diversity of our city;

¹ <https://twitter.com/cuny/status/1288950015470247942?s=21>

² <https://www.ispu.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/MAP-NYC-Report-Web-3.pdf>

³ <https://nyshealthfoundation.org/grant-outcome/harlem-hospital-center-muslim-clinic/>

⁴ <https://www.cuny.edu/about/>

⁵ <https://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=465025&GUID=C26BE6CC-1913-4477-95A0-E98B66CC2320>

⁶ <https://www.change.org/p/demand-cuny-to-cancel-classes-for-eid>

⁷ <https://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/education/nyc-schools-close-muslim-eid-holidays-article-1.2137025>




12. WHEREAS, CUNY's current academic calendar⁸ accommodates a number of religious holidays including Lunar New Year, Christmas, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Passover, and Easter, but excludes Muslim holidays;
13. WHEREAS, New York State Education Law EDN §224-a, subsection §3⁹ states: "It shall be the responsibility of the faculty and of the administrative officials of each institution of higher education to make available to each student who is absent from school, because of his or her religious beliefs, an equivalent opportunity to register for classes or make up any examination, study or work requirements which he or she may have missed because of such absence on any particular day or days";
14. WHEREAS, in the Academic Year of 2021-2022, Eid-Al-Fitr falls on Tuesday, May 3rd, 2022 and Eid-Al-Adha falls on July 10th - 11th, 2022.
15. WHEREAS, the Brooklyn College Undergraduate Student Government joins the University Student Senate and the Brooklyn College Muslim Student Organizations in solidarity alongside Muslim Student Associations across the CUNY system to affirm that our students should not be forced to choose between faith and education;
16. WHEREAS, that for CUNY to demonstrate their commitment to diversity, inclusion, and equity, Muslim students must have their voices heard¹⁰;
17. WHEREAS, that there is a growing call amongst Muslim Student Associations across the CUNY system and ally organizations to include our Muslim students and provide them relief to freely practice their most holy holiday amidst a devastating and on-going global pandemic.
18. RESOLVED, that when passed this should supersede and replace Joint Resolution 018;
19. RESOLVED, the Brooklyn College Undergraduate Student Government supports the current bill S5279 in the New York State Senate which "Provides that the Muslim holidays of Eid Ul-Fitr and Eid Ul-Adha shall be school holidays in the city school district of the city of New York"¹¹;
20. RESOLVED, the Brooklyn College Undergraduate Student Government stands with Muslim students and calls on the CUNY wide Administration to recognize Eid-al-Fitr and Eid-al-Adha as a religious holiday in 2021-2022 academic calendar, and recognize Eid-al-Adha and Eid-al-Fitr every following academic calendar;
21. RESOLVED, the Brooklyn College Undergraduate Student Government calls on the Brooklyn College administration, the CUNY administration, and the CUNY Board of Trustees to make Eid Ul-Fitr and Eid Ul-Adha days where no classes are in session.

Presented to the USG Executive Cabinet and Student Senate for consideration and action on November 4th, 2021. USG Joint Proposition 018b: Accommodating Muslim Students for Eid, is hereby Approved and Enacted into Law as Joint Resolution 018b.

 Aharon Grama
USG President

 Iqura Naheed
President of Student Senate

 Emmanuel Valdez
Attested

⁸ <https://www.cuny.edu/academics/academic-calendars/>

⁹ <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/EDN/224-A>

¹⁰ <https://www.ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/education/2021/05/08/muslim-students-petition-for-cuny-to-cancel-classes-for-eid-al-fitr>

¹² <https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/147-15/transcript-mayor-de-blasio-chancellor-fari-a-designate-eid-al-fitr-eid-al-adha-official#/0>

¹¹ <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/s5279>